DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES

P O BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

August 15, 2003

<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

TO: AREA EXECUTIVE STAFF, COUNTY DIRECTORS AND

CHILDREN'S SERVICES STAFF

FROM: DENISE CROSS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LINKING HEARTS COMMUNITY ADOPTION EVENT

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DISCUSSION:

We are pleased to announce the Linking Hearts Adoption Picnic! This event is a wonderful opportunity for our agency and community partners to provide prospective adoptive families with information about adoption and the children currently in need of permanent homes. In the past, the Linking Hearts events have resulted in creating new families for our children and increasing community awareness of the need for adoptive homes.

This year's event will be held on Friday, September 26, 2003, from 12:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lions Club Park, Highway 63 South and Lions Club Drive, Rolla, Missouri. Tables will be set up to provide general information about adoption, and profiles of waiting children will be highlighted. Refreshments will be provided throughout the event.

Counties are encouraged to participate in this event by attending and displaying pictures and profiles of available children, or by sending profiles. For staff wishing to attend the event, please contact the 25th Circuit Adoption Unit at 573-368-2340 or 573-774-6121 to reserve table space. County offices unable to send staff may contact the 25th Circuit Adoption Unit in order to send profiles, pictures, etc., which will be displayed on tables.

Please invite adoptive families to this event, as this will allow them to see profiles of waiting children from around the state. They will also have the opportunity to talk with front line workers about the children with whom they work. Please feel free to use the attached flyer to invite adoptive families to this recruitment activity.

This has proven to be an enjoyable and informative adoption recruitment event for prospective families and adoption workers over the years. We strongly encourage your participation and support of this activity.

If you have questions about Linking Hearts, or wish to attend or send profiles, please contact the 25th Circuit Adoption Unit at 573-368-2340 or 573-774-6121.

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Attachments

Linking Hearts Building Families Letter
Linking Hearts Community Adoption Event Flyer
Linking Hearts Community Adoption Event Agenda
Adult Registration Form
Child Registration Form